

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

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Contact Person

Grant C. Johnson
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Thomas M. McHugh, 67, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to a one count information which charged illegal structuring of financial transactions to evade the filing of Currency Transaction Reports as required by federal law.

McHugh acknowledged at the plea hearing that from January 2, 2003 to May 4, 2005, he structured approximately 173 deposits at local financial institutions totaling \$1,091,023. Federal law requires that financial institutions file Currency Transaction Reports for any cash transaction exceeding \$10,000 and makes it illegal for any individual to structure cash deposits with a financial institution in order to evade the filing of the Currency Transaction Report. Each of the 173 deposits were made by McHugh in amounts less than \$10,000.

U.S. District Judge Shabaz scheduled sentencing for October 11, 2007, at 1:45 p.m. The defendant faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

The charge against Thomas M. McHugh is the result of an investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The

prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Grant C. Johnson.

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